

From the Top Shelf

A message from Stephen Fulchino, Library Director

With the help of the Mayor and the City Council, the Library has been able to expand the services it offers. One milestone was opening the branches six days a week, starting in January.

Now, starting on May 6th, we will reach the second milestone: the opening of the Art Room in the Main Library. The Library will hold a formal opening ceremony on the June 12th AHA! Night at 5 p.m.

The formal hours that Room will be open are Tuesdays and Wednesdays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Thursdays 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Library is closed on holidays.

If these times are inconvenient, please call either the Art Room at 508-979-1787 or the Genealogy Room at 508-991-6276 to discover when someone is available to open the Room.

Of course, the public halls of the Main Library are filled with art. The Library keeps the treasures of the collection, however, in the Art Room. Since the last round of library layoffs in 2003, the Library has kept the Room closed, and it had become something of a storage room. Janice Hodson began as Art Curator in March, and she immediately began clearing out the Room and inventorying the collection. She will soon have the room in shape for the public.

The Library has also begun to reach out to the larger New Bedford art community. Watch this newsletter for exciting information about future events.

On a related topic, Dr. John Fletcher and his wife announced at his portrait unveiling that they were creating the Dr. John and Mary Beth Fletcher Fund for Children's Books. I would like to thank Dr. Fletcher and his wife for their generosity.

Dr. Fletcher's portrait will be hanging near the Genealogy Room on the third floor of the Main Library for three months. After that, in recognition of his years as an educator and because of his reading a children's book in the portrait, the Library will move it to the children's story hour room on the first floor.

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Legacy of a Half-Century

A ceremony honoring Dr. John Fletcher's 50 years of service to the children of greater New Bedford was held at the Main library of the New Bedford Free Public Library on Saturday, March 29, 2008. It was an afternoon of reminiscences, music, and humor.

The afternoon's activities were presided over by Carl Cruz, Vice-Chairman of the Trustees of the Library, as Master of Ceremonies. The Reverend George E. Harrison, a relative of Dr. Fletcher and Pastor of Holy Name Church of Fall River, gave the invocation; James Reid, USA Retired of the Veterans Transitional House, New Bedford lead the salute of the flag and Stephen Fulchino, Library Director, welcomed those assembled for the occasion.

Speakers related their experiences with and observations about Dr. Fletcher as a teacher, school administrator, member of the New Bedford School Committee, and his dedicated involvement to numerous causes on behalf of children, the elderly, and the economically disadvantaged.

Those participating included Mayor Scott M. Lang, Carol and Glen Grimes, co-chairs of the event, Michael E. Longo, Superintendent of New Bedford Public Schools and Dr. Stephen Russell, Superintendent of Dartmouth Public Schools. Dr Russell in particular shed light on some interesting and often humorous anecdotes from Dr. Fletcher's early beginnings as an educator in Dartmouth.



Present and past students of New Bedford High School provided two musical interludes. The New Bedford High School Show Choir, under the direction of Pauline Brazil DeBalsi, performed *God Bless America* and *Hand in Hand*. James P. Ferus, class valedictorian of the Class of 2002 and former General Manager of the Bach Society at Harvard University, performed *Memory* from the musical *Cats* on violin.

Mrs. Fletcher announced the generous gift of the establishment of the Dr. John and Mary Beth Fletcher Fund for children's books with an initial gift of \$1000. Carol and Glen Grimes presented a gift of an additional \$1000, the residual of the fundraising for the commission of the portrait and costs associated with the unveiling.

The portrait, by local artist Deborah Macy, depicts Dr. Fletcher seated as if reading to children. The book he is holding, entitled *Twilight Comes Twice*, is by Ralph Fletcher, Dr. Fletcher's nephew. Ralph Fletcher, author of several children's books, assisted with the unveiling of the portrait along with Dr. and Mrs. Fletcher and the artist.

The final benediction was offered by the Very Reverend Constantine S. Bebis, Pastor of St. George Greek Orthodox Church and Trustee of the Library.

Following the ceremony, guests adjourned to the Ashley Room in City Hall for refreshments.

Holiday Hours

Monday, May 26 – Closed for Memorial Day

The Hot List (Upcoming Books)

These popular authors are publishing new books in the next few months. They might not be in bookstores or libraries yet, but if they are in our catalog, you can still put them on hold and be at the top of the list!



May

- Buffett, Jimmy – *Swine Not?*
- Cornwell, Patricia – *The Front*
- Deveraux, Jude – *Secrets*
- George, Elizabeth – *Careless in Red*
- Hackman, Gene – *Escape from Andersonville*
- Hamilton, Laurell K. – *Blood Noir*
- Koontz, Dean – *Odd Hours*
- Lowell, Elizabeth – *Blue Smoke and Murder*
- Macomber, Debbie – *Twenty Wishes*
- Margolin, Phillip – *Executive Privilege*
- Martini, Steve – *Shadow of Power*
- Michaels, Fern – *Collateral Damage*
- Roberts, Nora – *The Hollow*
- Sandford, John – *Phantom Prey*
- Stewart, Mariah – *Mercy Street*

June

- Child, Lee – *Nothing to Lose*
- Collins, Jackie – *Married Lovers*
- Coulter, Catherine – *TailSpin*
- Craig, Philip – *Vineyard Chill*
- Cussler, Clive – *Plague Ship*
- Deaver, Jeffrey – *Broken Window*
- Evanovich, Janet – *Fearless Fourteen*
- Griffin, W.E.B. – *Death and Honor*
- Howard, Linda – *Death Angel*
- Lackey, Mercedes – *Snow Queen*
- Lindsey, Johanna – *No Choice But Seduction*
- Mailer, Norman – *Hemingway at Home*
- Palmer, Diana - *Fearless*
- Parker, Robert – *Resolution*
- Patterson, James – *Sail*
- Rushdie, Salman – *Enchantress of Florence*
- Steel, Danielle – *Rogue*

July

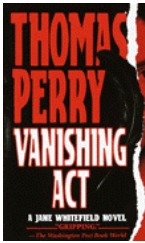
- Brockmann, Suzanne – *Into the Fire*
- Brown, Rita Mae – *The Sand Castle*
- Daheim, Mary – *Vi Agra Falls*
- Gardner, Lisa – *Say Goodbye*
- Jance, J.A. – *Damage Control*
- Johansen, Iris – *Silent Thunder*
- Patterson, James – *The Dangerous Days of Daniel X*
- Rice, Luanne – *Last Kiss*
- Roberts, Nora – *Tribute*
- Silva, Daniel – *Moscow Rules*
- Slaughter, Karin – *Fractured*
- Thor, Brad – *The Last Patriot*

This newsletter is produced by the staff of the New Bedford Free Public Library.
Contributors: Paul Cyr, Geoffrey Dickinson, Judith Downey, Dale Easton, Stephen Fulchino, Janis Gomes, Mary Kruger, Denise Plaskon, Karen Stefanik

Books You May Have Missed (But Shouldn't

Perry, Thomas – *Vanishing Act* (FIC Perry) (1996)

Jane Whitefield has a special talent: she makes people disappear. Devious and intelligent, Jane uses skills learned from her Native American heritage to find people new identities and new lives. In this way, she protects them from those who want to harm them. But when a man she trusts becomes dangerous, Jane must call on all her strength and all her skills to rescue not only the people she's helped, but herself.



Thomas Perry is the author of numerous thrillers, including four more titles in the Jane Whitefield series.



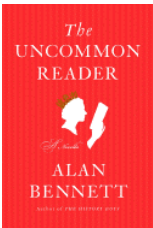
King, Laurie – *Keeping Watch* (FIC King) (2003)

Keeping Watch also follows a character who rescues people in danger, particularly children. Allen Carmichael gained his motivation for this profession after his experiences in Vietnam, recounted in a long prelude. Nothing in his experience, though, prepares him for the events surrounding his attempts to rescue a young boy meant to be his last client. Beautifully written, deeply suspenseful, this is a book you won't want to put down.

Laurie King, an Edgar Award winner, is also the author of the Mary Russell series, as well as the Kate Martinelli series.

Bennett, Alan – *The Uncommon Reader* (FIC Bennett) (2007)

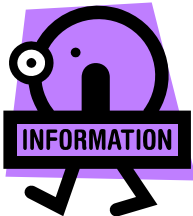
What if Queen Elizabeth discovered the joys of reading? That's the premise behind this fun and funny story. One day when the Queen is walking in the Buckingham Palace garden, she sees a bookmobile. She checks out a book for politeness' sake, but reading soon becomes vitally important to her. In a life ruled by duty, books are a revelation, changing the way she views the world, the way she relates to people, and ultimately, her life.



Did You Know?

The New Bedford Libraries have free and discounted passes to many local museums. The passes are free to adults with a valid library card and can also be reserved in advance on the Library's Web site. All the libraries have free passes to the Buttonwood Zoo. The Main Library carries additional passes:

- Children's Museum, Boston
- John F. Kennedy Library and Museum
- Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
- Museum of Science, Boston
- New Bedford Whaling Museum
- New England Aquarium, Boston
- Plimoth Plantation



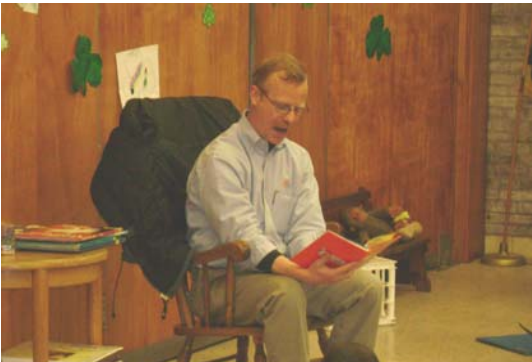
Seuss Celebrations

Over 200 local children were transformed into honorary residents of Whoville when they stepped into one of the five New Bedford library locations to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss the week of March 3rd. Children who attended the parties received Cat in the Hat bookmarks, a free Dr. Seuss book, and shared in a birthday cake.

Mayor Scott Lang, Police Chief Ronald Teachman, and Pamela Souza of the Interchurch Council read to the twelve children and adults who attended the festivities at the Main Library. New Bedford cable access taped the program to share it with the public.

Forty-eight children and twenty-nine adults attended the party at the Lawler Branch. The readers at Lawler were City Council President Jane Gonsalves and local Domino's Pizza owner Nelson Hochart-Lotz.

Thirty-nine children and thirteen adults enjoyed the program at the Howland-Green Branch, where WBSM radio personality Evan Rousseau read to the children. The Wilks Branch had fifty-one children and twenty-nine adults who listened to City Counselors Steve Martins and Linda Morad relate a Dr. Seuss tale.



Nelson Hochart-Lotz helps celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday at the Lawler Library.

It was a dark and rainy day when the Dr. Seuss celebration was scheduled at Casa. It had been timed so that the classes from the Congdon School could enjoy the program, but the weather did not permit a walk to the library. So Casa Branch Manager, Miss Judy, bundled the books to be read, the special Seuss stuffed animals, the cake and punch, and the gift books into her car and took the program on the road to Congdon. There, she read three Dr. Seuss stories, including *Horton Hears a Who*, to the Grade 1 Bi-Lingual class and both second grades. They shared cake and punch.

The two fourth grades had gone on a field trip, but upon their return Miss Judy packed all but the refreshments and climbed to the third floor and read one Dr. Seuss story to them. In the end more than 90 children and eight adults celebrated the day.

The programs and the free books were sponsored by the Trustees of the New Bedford Day Nursery.

Kidz Korner

New Releases for Young People

- Abbott, Tony – *Treasure of the Orkins* (6/08)
- Clements, Andrew – *Lost and Found* (7/08)
- Colfer, Eoin – *The Time Paradox* (7/08)
- Curtis, Christopher Paul – *Mr. Chickee's Messy Mission* (6/08)
- McCaffrey, Anne – *Dragondrums* (6/08)
- Moss, Melissa – *Amelia's Guide to Baby Sitting* (6/08)
- Myers, Walter Dean – *Sunrise over Fallujah* (5/08)
- Naylor, Phyllis – *Almost Alice* (6/08)
- Numeroff, Laura – *Time for School, Mouse!* (6/08)
- Parker, Robert – *The Boxer and the Spy* (5/08)
- Rinaldi, Ann – *Juliet's Moon* (5/08)

Kids' Reads



Flanagan, John – *Ranger's Apprentice: The Ruins of Gorlan* (Y FIC Flanagan) (ages 11-15)
Reviewed by Victoria, age 13, Lawler patron

Will is an adolescent boy, growing up as a castle orphan in the land of Araluen. He has no family, very few friends, and no idea of who he is. Through all of that tough, he is happy: the land seems peaceful, and there is always something for him to do. Little does he realize, however, that war is brewing. Morgarath, the evil lord who tried to take over Araluen 13 years ago, is on the move again, and he has sent out the Kalkara, hideous beasts that won't rest until they've done his bidding. Halt, the mysterious ranger that Will has been apprenticed to, seems to know something that he isn't letting on. Can Will rise to the challenge when so many lives are in danger-including his own?

Paolini, Christopher – *Eldest* (Y SCI Paolini) (ages 10+)
Reviewed by Elizabeth, age 11, Lawler patron

Eldest, the second book in the Inheritance series, is an exciting story about a Dragon Rider named Eragon, his dragon Saphira and the journey they take together. They are on a mission to find the Varden people before the evil King Galbatorix's helpers do. During this mission Eragon is sent to Ellesméra for more intense training in the skills of the Dragon Rider. During training Eragon learns about magic and swordsmanship and Eragon and Saphira learn about the true meaning of friendship. Things are not always what they seem in Alagaësia. Together Eragon and Saphira face many adventures, dangers and betrayals. While Eragon is training his cousin Roran is on his own journey searching for his love Katrina, who has been kidnapped by the Ra'zac. Will good triumph over evil, or will evil win out in the end? You'll have to read this exhilarating story to find out!



What’s Going On?

Story Hours

Spring story time runs from March 31 to June 7. The library branches hold story hours for children ages 3-5. The Main Library holds a drop-in story time for all ages.

Lawler – Mondays@10am	Howland Green – Thursdays @3pm
Casa da Saudade – May 13, June 3 @6pm (in Portuguese)	Wilks – Wednesdays @10am
Main Library – Saturdays @10am	

Children’s Book Week – May 12-16

Celebrate Children’s Book Week at the library!

- Tues. May 13 @3pm – Big Ryan’s Tall Tales @Lawler
- Wed. May 14 @3pm – Burt the Raccoon Puppet @Main Library
- Thu. May 15 @3:30pm – David Mello “Stories from Here, There and Everywhere” @Howland Green
- Fri. May 16 @3pm – Author Deborah Kovacs (*Catie Copley*) and black Labrador Retriever Catie, who acts as a canine ambassador at Boston’s Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel @Wilks

Planning Process Public Forums

Help us plan for the future! These forums are designed to let you tell us your opinions about the libraries’ strengths, weaknesses and needs.

June 4 @ 2pm – Wilks Branch	June 4 @ 6pm – Main Library
June 5 @ 2pm – Howland Green Branch	June 5 @ 6pm – Lawler Branch

In My Memory with Sunbeams, More Drawings of Fayal (exhibit)

June 4 – July 1; Casa da Saudade Library

The Casa da Saudade Library will feature a show of photographs taken of drawings of Fayal, Azores done in 1843 by Sam Longfellow. This show, curated by Sally Sapienza, is in part to commemorate the Day of Portugal on June 10th.

AHA! Night – “New Bedford Cultures” – Formal opening of the Art Room

June 12, 5pm; Main Library 3rd Floor

The New Bedford Free Public Library Art Room will hold a ceremony to celebrate its reopening and expanded hours. The Art Room contains many of the gems of the library’s art collection, including works by Albert Bierstadt, William Bradford and a host of local artists.

Fifties Family Fun Day @ Wilks

June 14, 11am – 4pm; Wilks Library and grounds

Come celebrate the Wilks Library’s 50th anniversary! We’re going to party like it’s 1958 with vintage cars, the 50s band “The Klassics,” children’s entertainment, karate demonstrations, food and more!

Summer Reading Program – “Wild Reads at Your Library”

June 23 – signup begins

July 7 – August 16 – story hours and events

Children ages 3-18 are invited to join the New Bedford Free Public Library’s Summer Reading Program. Read books to win prizes! Information about the programs will be available at your local branch, on the Library’s Web site, and in the July/August newsletter.

Computer Classes

Ongoing

All the New Bedford Libraries will start offering computer classes on topics such as navigating the Web, email, IBistro and library databases. Ask at your local branch for more information and to sign up for a class.

Hours & Locations

Main Library
613 Pleasant St.
508-991-6275
TTY: 508-991-6258

Monday:	9am – 9pm
Tuesday:	9am – 9pm
Wednesday:	9am – 9pm
Thursday:	9am – 9pm
Friday:	9am – 5pm
Saturday:	9am – 5pm

Genealogy Department
3rd floor of Main Library
508-991-6276

Monday:	9am – 9pm
Tuesday:	1pm – 9pm
Wednesday:	9am – 9pm
Thursday:	9am – 5pm
Friday:	9am – 5pm
Saturday:	9am – 5pm

Art Room
3rd floor of Main Library
508-979-1787

Monday:	closed
Tuesday:	1pm – 5pm
Wednesday:	1pm – 5pm
Thursday:	1pm – 9pm
Friday:	9am – 1pm; 2pm – 5pm
Saturday:	9am – 1pm; 2pm – 5pm

Branch Libraries

Casa da Saudade 58 Crapo St. 508-991-6218	Howland-Green 3 Rodney French Blvd. 508-991-6212
Lawler 745 Rockdale Ave. 508-991-6216	Wilks 1911 Acushnet Ave. 508-991-6214
Monday: Tuesday: Wednesday: Thursday: Friday: Saturday:	9am – 5pm 12pm – 8pm 9am – 5pm 12pm – 8pm 9am – 5pm 9am – 5pm

Bookmobile
The Bookmobile visits schools, neighborhoods and adult centers throughout New Bedford. For the Bookmobile schedule, please call 508-991-6214.

Remembering Hetty

The Wilks Branch Library kicked off a celebration of its 50th anniversary with a program entitled, “Remembering Hetty.” To begin the evening local actress Lucy Bly performed as New York socialite, Annie Leary, a close friend of Hetty Howland Robinson Green, the New Bedford financier. Ms. Bly’s riveting elegy was in turn humorous and melancholy, provoking frequent chuckles from the appreciative audience of over 60 people.

Immediately following the performance, the now-disbanded Hetty Green Historical Society presented a check to the New Bedford Free Public Library for \$3,900 in memory of the Society’s late founder and director, Edith Nichols. Mary Ellen Bergeron, New Bedford Library Trustee, accepted the check from Clinton Sowle, former Society board member. The money will be used to establish a special book fund in Ms. Nichols’ memory.

Local author Barbara Bedell, a former Society board member and close friend of Edith Nichols, spoke briefly about the late New Bedford business woman. Ms. Nichols was well-known for her appearances as Hetty Green at local schools, civic organizations, club functions, and during special Girl Scout meetings. The archives at the now-closed Hetty Green Museum were the definitive source for accurate Hetty Green research. Charles Slack used them extensively to research his book, *Hetty, The Genius and Madness of America’s First Female Tycoon*, and Edith Nichols is the first person he thanks in his book’s acknowledgements.



Lucy Bly as Annie Leary

The Wilks Branch Library’s construction was funded by a bequest from Sylvia Ann Howland Green Wilks, Hetty Green’s daughter. A Fifties Family Fun Day will be held on June 14 to continue the celebration of the Wilks Library’s 50th anniversary.

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